Seba Elizabeth Flanagan

By Martin Flanagan

Seba Elizabeth Flanagan was born March 11, 1907, the youngest child of John Hardy Flanagan and Nanny Bathsheba Smith Flanagan.

Seba was born in Pitt County, North Carolina and had her elementary and high school education in the Farmville Schools. She later obtained an R.N. degree at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Seba returned from Baltimore to Greenville, North Carolina and spent almost her entire life in Greenville earning her livelihood as a registered nurse. Much of the time was spent doing private practice, rather than hospital nursing.

During World War II she volunteered for the Army Nurse Corp. I have a vivid memory of one of Aunt Seba's visits around 1942 or 1943 when she came to Greenville, South Carolina to visit her brother, my father, Leon Smith Flanagan. I thought she was splendid in her Army uniform.

Aunt Seba had a fine sense of humor and was always laughing and joking about one thing or another. I remember her telling us during her visit that she had flown on an airplane, this being her first flight. She said she spent most of the time on the airplane looking at the sign over the door that indicated it was an exit. She said she wondered what could possibly happen that would cause her to go out of that door.

In 1950, at age 43 she married for the first, and only time. She married Sam Quinerly who, along with his sisters, operated a boarding house in Greenville, North Carolina. To my knowledge Sam Quinerly was never employed other that at this boarding house, and I believe that Aunt Seba more or less supported Sam for a number of years. They, or she, bought a house in Greenville, North Carolina which she subsequently willed to her niece, Olive Mae Tyson Fulfer, and James Fulfer. Olive and Jim spent most of their lives as missionaries for the Seventh Day Adventist Church and retired to Greenville, N.C.

Being the youngest in her generation, Aunt Seba was given the Flanagan Family Bible, and she passed it on to me because, as she stated, I am the youngest in my generation. The Bible was published in 1882 and was probably purchased by John Hardy Flanagan and Nannie Bathsheba Smith Flanagan, husband and wife. The first entry is "Archibald Flanekin son of James Flanekin and Nancy his wife was bornd (sic) Jan. 5 A.D. 1825."

Sam Quinerly predeceased Aunt Seba, and she died in Greenville, North Carolina in November, 1985.